



RWANDA

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
Population, Health, and Nutrition Briefing Sheet

Country Profile

Rwanda is located in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. Rwanda has a population of about 7.7 million and with only 24,300 square kilometers (sq. km.) of territory, it is the most densely populated country in Africa.

The greatest hindrance to development since independence has been a blend of severe poverty and politically-fostered ethnic divisiveness. In 1994, the nation erupted in genocide and civil war. Almost one million Rwandans were slaughtered in a three month period and another three million were internally or externally displaced.

The post-genocide government, now in its fourth year of rule, continues to face complex and daunting challenges as they attempt to rebuild a just society, reintegrate enormous numbers of recently returned refugees, ensure food security and provide basic public services.

USAID Strategy

USAID is working in Rwanda to increase health service utilization and change behaviors related to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STI), and maternal and child health. More specific objectives are to:

- Increase the availability of decentralized, quality primary health care (PHC) and HIV/AIDS/STI services;
- Improve knowledge and perceptions related to reproductive health, emphasizing HIV/AIDS/STI;
- Enhance the sustainability of PHC services through improved financial accountability and improved health care financing.

Major Program Areas

In collaboration with other donors, the US government has pledged considerable financial and technical support to assist the GOR in managing its massive challenges and set the country back on the road to sustainable development. Between 1994 and 1996, the U.S. government provided over \$270 million in relief, transition and development assistance to Rwanda. Emergency assistance focused on providing life-saving interventions such as emergency food, health, water, sanitation and agriculture inputs. Transition and development assistance began targeting the health and justice sectors during this period in an effort to assist Rwandans move beyond the crisis.

In March 1997, USAID initiated a post-emergency "Transition Plan" in which emergency relief inputs are scaled-down and development assistance focuses on rebuilding capacity in the health, justice and agriculture sectors.

Results Highlights

USAID/Rwanda was the first bilateral mission to resume development programming in 1995 through the AIDS Control and Prevention activity. Prompt USAID assistance in the health sector re-established the Rwandan National AIDS Prevention Program and launched AIDS/STI prevention, education and social marketing activities throughout the country in the post-emergency period. Through the 1995-1998 transition period, assistance in the health sector decentralized and integrated AIDS/STI services in four regions; established internationally acceptable accounting and administrative practices in the Ministry of Health; initiated creation of a National Health Communications Facility in collaboration with the World Bank; and is building capacity within the Ministry of Health to implement sustainable health care financing and cost recovery mechanisms.



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Demographic Table

Population:	7.7 million	(1997, BuCen)
Percent Urban:	5.6%	(1994, UNPOP)
Infant Mortality:	85 infant deaths per 1,000 live births	(1992, DHS)
Under-Five Mortality:	310 deaths under five per 1,000 live births	(1994, CIHI)
Underweight Children:	38% of children under five years of age	(1992, DHS)
Vaccination Coverage:	88% of children vaccinated for measles by their first birthday	(1994/97, WHO)
Maternal Mortality:	1300 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births	(1990, WHO/ UNICEF)
Family Planning:	8.6% of married women use modern methods of contraception	(1992, DHS)
Total Fertility:	6.2 children per woman	(1992, DHS)
HIV Prevalence Rate:	7.2% of adults	(1994, WHO)
Adult Literacy:	59%	(1994, UNDP)
Real GDP:	\$352 per person	(1994, UNDP)

Sources:

BuCen:	United States Bureau of the Census
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
DHS:	Demographic and Health Survey
UNPOP:	United Nations Population Division
WHO:	World Health Organization
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
RSA/DOH:	Republic of South Africa, Dept. of Health



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